the same diuretic properties as does cider and that it may thus prove to be a useful beverage for the gouty and for those who have a tendency to uric acid deposits. This preparation makes little appeal to us.

New Inventions.

A NEW INTRATYMPANIC SYRINGE.

CONSIDERING the frequency with which obstinate middle-ear discharge is associated with disease of the tympanic attic and the difficulty there is in cleansing the attic either by the dry method or by the ordinary ear syringe, it is not surprising that many special intratympanic syringes have been constructed. Intratympanic syringes are used both in diagnosis and in treatment. When a large part of the membrana tensa is gone and when easy access is thus given to the upper part of the tympanic cavity the turned up point of an intratympanic syringe may be inserted into the

attic or backwards into the aditus and in this way large quantities of flakey or cheesy discharge may be removed. Evidence of this kind, along with the information obtained by probing, goes a long way in guiding the surgeon in the conduct of the case, and if a continuance of such cleansing does not result in entire cessation of discharge the indications for operation (ossiculectomy or the radical operation) are often clearly defined. Such a syringe must present the following features:—(1) Its point must be narrow and so turned upwards that it can enter behind the membrane into the tympanic attic; (2) its point must be capable of rotation through the upper half of a circle, for it may have to be introduced behind the malleus handle under the posterior fold of the membrane, or in front of the handle under the anterior fold of the membrane; and (3) as the current from the syringe must be directed with precision the instrument must be small and easily handled. The lumen of the delivery tube must be free from obstruction as the solution must be applied in considerable volume and with considerable force, the secretion to be dislodged being often tough and present in large quantity. Nearly all existing intratympanic syringes fail in one or more of the above requirements. In nearly all the point is too narrow and the current too weak—results often produced or made worse by the fitting of a narrow rotation nozzle to the syringe. Often the bag containing the solution is too small. I have designed the syringe shown in the illustration. It fulfils all the above requirements and both for diagnosis and treatment has proved satisfactory. Like all such instruments, the syringe must be used by the surgeon himself and only with the aid of the mirror and speculum.

The instrument may be obtained from Messrs. Baird

Bros. of Glasgow or from Messrs. Down Bros., Limited, St. Thomas's-street, London, S.E.

JAMES KERR LOVE, M.D. Glasg.,
Aural Surgeon, Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

Looking Back.

FROM

THE LANCET, SATURDAY, June 28th, 1828.

In the British dominions, we have corporations of physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries, in each of the countries which are now happily united to the first and most powerful nation in the world. Each of these corporations in England, Scotland, and Ireland have peculiar rights and privileges, though a knowledge of each profession is often acquired from a similar source, often from the same teachers and authors, and the practice of each is precisely similar; and yet, a practitioner authorised by any one corporation, cannot practise within the precincts of the other with impunity. As the principles and practice of the different branches of British medicine are similar in every part of the empire, should not all duly and legally qualified members of either corporation have equal rights and privileges, in the same dominions? This is the case in France, and in all the other enlightened European nations, and throughout the vast continent of America. The third article of the French charter declares, that "all Frenchmen are equally admissible to all civil and military employments." While some of our medical corporations are endeavouring to prevent members of their rivals and contemporaries from exercising their professions, the whole empire is completely overrun with illiterate and demoralising empirics, who freely and most extensively practise on the persons and purses of his Majesty's subjects at large, with perfect impunity. A most able and veracious physician has truly asserted that "quackery has destroyed more in this country than the sword, famine, and pestilence, united;" and never was there a period in the history of British medicine, at which the force and truth of this opinion was more obvious than at this day. But the laws relating to the practice and protection of the medical profession in the United Kingdoms, are perfectly defective and impotent, while they are no less contradictory than inconsistent, with the wants and wishes of an improved and more enlightened society.* The general diffusion of knowledge among the great mass of mankind, has given rise to corresponding improvements in every art and science; has introduced such invaluable and improved systems, that the oldest and most venerable institutions must adapt themselves to the spirit of the age. The just murmurs, and respectful but firm remonstrances of the medical profession, have not only reached the portals, but entered the temple of the legislature. That profession, the most useful and important to the sublunary condition of mankind, (for the conservation of the public health is the sovereign law of every nation,) has, at length, come under the consideration of the government, and of the senate, the members of which, in their wisdom, will display that great and brilliant spirit of improvement, that so highly distinguished their recent proceedings, and will introduce those changes in the laws regarding the practice of the healing art, which will render it more perfect, and better adapted for the preservation of public health. Some of our Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, until a very recent period, refused admission to all persons, who had demeaned themselves by practising pharmacy; though without the composition of medicines, neither physicians, or surgeons themselves, could efficiently pursue their respective avocations. These august corporations enforced a similar sapient self-constituted by-law against all those who practised midwifery, as if the structure, functions, and diseases peculiar to the female organs of generation, were not as important, and the diseases as fatal, as those of any other organ in the human body.

* This was admitted by the Marquis of Lansdowne, and the Right Honourable Robert Peel, in a correspondence which I had the honour of having with them, on the necessity of improving the laws relating to the medical profession in the United Kingdoms.¹

¹ Excerpt from "Introductory Lecture to the Theory and Practice of Midwifery. By Dr. Ryan. Delivered at the Central Infirmary and Dispensary, Greville-street, Hatton-garden."